

Greentree Neighborhood Association
Minutes, September 8, 2008 meeting
Falk Elementary School Library

Present: Shanna Beckfield, Rick Floyd, Steve Henningfield, Linda J. Johnson, Earl Gritton, Nancy Priegel, Allen Youngwood, Larry Sperling

Welcome to Shanna Beckfield who is considering serving as the Area 8 representative. We'd welcome her ideas and participation. Shanna teaches a grade 2/3 combination class at Falk Elementary, is the mother of three youngsters and is married to a Madison Police Department officer. The Beckfields live on Berkshire Road.

Greentree Stump – No report. Articles for the next issue are due to Jeanne Howard by Friday, September 12th.

Association Officers – Ms. Priegel expressed interest in relinquishing her position as Association Chair given impending travel plans. A vote and discussion were deferred to the next meeting.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator – Thanks to Erica Brumm for spearheading this effort. Given that she anticipates moving from the neighborhood, we will need a replacement and a new Area 5 representative. Area representatives suggested contacting Barbara Erdtmann and the Kime family to ascertain if they might take over leadership of this program and the Neighborhood Watch Web site. The Neighborhood Safety Walk program scheduled for Tuesday evenings leaving from Norman Clayton Park fizzled out due to lack of neighborhood interest.

Halloween Party – The annual bonfire and hot chocolate event has been scheduled from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, October 31st. Larry Sperling agreed to organize the event with volunteer help. Earl Gritton provided a summary from a past Halloween event in 2004. Others had suggested names of volunteers from past events. Nancy Priegel and Shanna Beckfield volunteered to help serve hot chocolate. Sperling will prepare a story for the Stump soliciting volunteers. Linda Johnson volunteered to contact Christine Kuske Reese, a Spectrum Company employee, to determine if Spectrum might donate flashlights to the children for this event as has happened occasionally in the past.

Neighborhood Center Pilot Project at Meadowood Shopping Center – Larry Sperling reported on an August 6 meeting held at St. Maria Goretti School. Minutes of that meeting were previously distributed to the GTNA Board. The City of Madison provided a \$53,000 grant from the Emerging Neighborhoods program, to establish a 3,000-square-foot center on the site of the recently-vacated Jacobsen's Meat market in Meadowood Shopping Center. The City has provided a three-year lease with a potential three year extension for the site and contracted with the Madison Scholl Recreation program to run the center, at least for the first year. Programming and site management would be provided by Lucy Chappen, MSCR Executive Director. The site would provide a small meeting room, a small bank of computers, some tables and chairs to accommodate small groups. MSCR aims to provide services for senior citizens and fitness classes for people older than 50 during the day and a limited amount of programming for students after school. Evening programs at the center were not discussed. MSCR solicited ideas for center programming from the District 20 residents who were invited to the August 6th meeting by their Alderwoman.

The few GTNA members who attended the meeting did not feel especially welcome since their neighborhood association was not invited to speak or participate as were Orchard Ridge, Prairie Hills and Meadowood neighborhood associations.

Beltline and Transportation issues – Mr. Youngwood summarized recent correspondence with Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Office officials. A report that includes potential options for connecting streets to relieve traffic on Odana Road and overpasses across the Beltline between Whitney Way and Gammon Road interchanges has not been made available for public comment or review despite the fact that it was drafted back in the summer of 2007. Mr. Youngwood continues to ask when this public document will be made available and how meaningful public review/comment will be solicited. The three-phase process to update ramp accesses, interchange redesigns and grade crossings of the Beltline continues with little opportunity for public comment and no comprehensive meetings soliciting public concerns, comments or suggestions for potential Beltline expansions

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Youngwood reports that GTNA has approximately \$1,041 in its checking account. Two additional Certificates of Deposit (CDs) will mature this year. A CD in the amount of \$3,140 matures October 3, 2008 and another valued at approximately \$4,800 matures in April, 2009. Both will be rolled over into new one-year notes at the best prevailing rates available at the time.

Benches -- The Board discussed using some of the GTNA funds to install benches at some neighborhood parks and will solicit comments from GTNA members through the newsletter.

Clearing shrubbery at Hammersley Park – Though funds for a community garden were authorized through city block grants the task of clearing overgrown shrubbery from the park space has not been assigned to the City Parks crews according to Parks Department staffer William Bauer. This is considered a first step in the park renovations.

Shanna Beckfield will also ask Falk School teachers if they might be interested in having some of the garden plots at Hammersley Park available for school teaching programs. Given that most garden activity occurs from May through mid-September, Falk will have to determine if summer programs at the school might make good use of nearby garden plots on the adjoining property.

Minutes submitted by Larry Sperling